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NIT-163-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Accompanying Continuation Application Under
37 CFR 1.53(b):

Prior Application: M. IWAYAMA et al
Serial No. 09/442,147
Filed: November 18, 1999

Group Art: 2171
Examiner: C. Rones
For: A METHOD OF SEARCHING DOCUMENTS AND
A SERVICE FOR SEARCHING DOCUMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 15, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination, please ~~amend~~ the above application
as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, ~~add~~ the paragraph:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No.
09/442,147 filed November 18, 1999.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please ~~cancel~~ claims ~~1-9~~ without prejudice or disclaimer
and add new claims 10-18 as set forth below.

SUB B17 10. (New) A service for searching documents wherein
servers comprising document databases and programs to

A1
A2
Cmet